

up timing, prepayment necessary/unnecessary flag/ predelivery possible/impossible flag, method of tender, and delivering method is stored in said type code table;

said incomplete transaction line item information table is designated by an incomplete transaction slip number in said incomplete transaction management table, and goods management information including at least one of goods code, unit price, quantity, and discount information is stored in said incomplete transaction line item information table; and

said payment information management table is designated by an incomplete transaction slip number in said incomplete transaction management table, and payment management information including at least one of date and time of payment, paid amount, and kind of tender is stored in said payment information management table.

A marked-up version of the amended claim is enclosed as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 16, 2002 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. By this Amendment, claims 1-12 and 14-16 have been cancelled and the subject matter of claims 5, 7, 9, 11 and 12 incorporated into newly added claims 17-21, respectively. Claim 13 has been further amended to depend from new claim 21 and to more clearly particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. No new matter has been added or amendments made that narrow the scope of any

elements of any claims. Accordingly, claims 13 and 17-21 are pending in this application and are submitted for consideration.

Applicant acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5, 7, 9 and 11-13 would be allowable over the prior art if amended to be in independent form and to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, the claims have been written into independent form as new claims 17-21. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 17-21 also recite allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 and 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. By this Amendment, claims 1, 12 and 14-16 have been cancelled. Claim 13 has been amended to obviate the rejection. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Pool et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,460,020, "Pool"). In making this rejection, the Office Action took the position that Pool discloses all the elements of the claimed invention.

Claims 6, 8, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pool. In making this rejection, the Office Action took the position that Pool discloses all the elements of the claimed invention, with the exception of disclosing a sales sum-up timing set to a timing up completion of the transaction, as recited in claim 6, a prepayment being unnecessary and the delivery of goods set to predelivery, as recited in claim 8, and prepayment being unnecessary in the delivery of goods set to predelivery with respect to the deferred payment transaction on the principle of completion, as recited in claim 10.

By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10 and 14-16 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejection is moot and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of claims 13 and 17-21 (claims 17-21 incorporating the allowed subject matter of claims 5, 7, 9, 11 and 12) and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

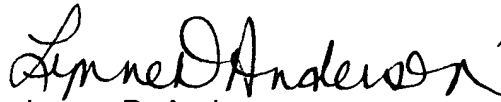
If this application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper,

may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 108131-00000.**

Respectfully submitted,

ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN PLLC



Lynne D. Anderson
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 46,412

Customer No. 004372
1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036-5339
Telephone: (202) 857-6000

CMM:LDA/elz/ksm

Enclosures: Marked-up Copy of Amended Claim
Petition for Extension of Time
Associate Power of Attorney